



Maryland

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

MD-CW0406

April 24, 2006

Weekend Rains Temper Drought Concerns

Rain on Saturday and Sunday in the range of one to two inches helped alleviate farmer's concerns about drought. Precipitation totals for the year to date are still significantly below normal. But at least temporarily, conditions have improved. **Small grains and hay** growth had been stunted by the dry conditions, but the rains were significant enough to spur growth. Reporters indicated that there were **6.0 days suitable** for fieldwork. **Corn** planting advanced 7 percent to 17 percent complete, comparable to the average.

Barley and Wheat condition is rated mainly fair to good. **Barley** is 22 percent headed compared to 10 percent last year and 15 percent average. **Wheat** is 5 percent headed compared to a 5 year average of 3 percent.

Strawberries are 41 percent in bloom, comparable to last year and the average. **Peaches** and **apples** are in bloom and significantly ahead of last year. Potato and Green Pea planting are well underway.

Topsoil moisture and **subsoil moisture** are short to adequate. **Pasture condition** is generally fair to good and **hay supplies** are short to adequate.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Small Grain Development:				
Barley Headed	22	8	10	15
Winter Wheat Headed	5	3	1	3
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloups	19	15	12	11
Corn	17	10	15	14
Cucumbers	31	26	5	6
Green Peas	50	36	59	67
Potatoes	49	41	58	51
Snap Beans	10	4	3	5
Sweet Corn	24	19	17	19
Tomatoes	38	33	26	23
Watermelons	42	28	9	8
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	44	4	14	31
Peaches	56	48	29	56
Strawberries	41	22	45	45

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	58	38	4
Topsoil (2005)	-	10	81	9
Five Year Average	-	10	70	20
Subsoil Moisture	-	48	51	1
Subsoil (2005)	-	2	85	14
Five Year Average	5	11	69	15

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006

	Precipitation			Temperatures			
Weather Station	Total this week	Total Since Jan 1	Departure from Normal Since Jan 1	High	Low	Average	Departure from Normal
Maryland							
Baltimore/Washington Airport	1.02	8.95	-2.92	83	45	61	7
Easton	1.33	9.08	-1.79	83	43	58	9
Frederick	2.74	11.39	-2.11	77	40	55	7
Frostburg	1.28	6.85	-3.83	80	42	57	5
Hagerstown	2.00	7.87	-5.52	81	40	58	3
Mechanicsville	1.82	6.94	-4.93	75	39	59	3
Patuxent River	1.00	6.11	-8.09	75	37	56	2
Ocean City	2.09	7.50	-6.22	80	33	58	4
Salisbury	1.48	8.37	-2.50	81	35	55	6
Sharpsburg	1.74	8.47	-3.71	82	47	60	6
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	1.81	8.83	-1.81	82	47	61	4
Delaware							
Dover	1.60	8.37	-4.14	81	43	59	5
Georgetown	1.37	6.77	-6.70	83	40	61	8
Wilmington	2.36	10.12	-1.80	82	43	59	6

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.